



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Law and Order Committee receives
update regarding the Dilkon Justice Center**

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee received an update regarding the development of the Dilkon Justice Center from Navajo Nation Design & Engineering Services, Navajo Nation Department of Corrections, Dilkon Judicial District, Dilkon Chapter officials, and Johnson Smithipong & Rosamond architecture firm.

Johnson Smithipong & Rosamond engineer Bill Draper said the development began in 2009 on a 10-acre site, which will encompass a judicial complex, police department, and corrections center.

“Thus far, we have completed a 15,000 square-foot court building, and hope to complete the detention center and police department,” said Draper, adding that the justice center is far along in the process and with additional funding the project could be completed in early 2015.

“We are trying to identify construction funds and at the same time, continue lobbying efforts to obtain additional monies for maintenance and operation of the facilities after completion,” said Council Delegate Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone). “They have been working on this [Justice Center] project for the past seven years.”

Navajo Nation Department of Corrections director Delores Greyeyes and Lt. Emerson Lee, provided LOC members with statistics showing the impact of the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort has had on crime.

“The opening of Twin Arrows has impacted crime rates, which have increased in the Dilkon district,” said Greyeyes. “Not just for law enforcement, but for patrol, corrections, and investigations.”

According to Greyeyes, arrestees are transported to Tuba City or Window Rock for processing, which entails a three-to-four hour roundtrip for officers.

Greyeyes and Lt. Lee said they hope the LOC will amend the Judicial/Public Safety Complex Priority Listing to move Dilkon to the top of the list, referencing their report which states they are further along in the process than other districts on the Navajo Nation.

“The report you provided will help in deciding the final priority listing and how the committee will prioritize the projects,” said LOC vice chair Council Delegate Alton Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat).

“Other than the Navajo Nation as the primary funding source for this project, I hope you are looking for outside additional funding,” Delegate Shepherd added.

The majority of the project was funded by the Navajo Nation and 638 contract funds, but the Bureau of Indian Affairs needs to be held accountable to their treaty responsibility and assist financially to complete the justice center, said Greyeyes.

According to Greyeyes, a letter will be drafted asking for additional funding from the BIA .

At the conclusion of the report, Delegate Shepherd said the final priority listing will include information from the report, which is currently open for public comment.

The committee voted 3-0 to accept the report.

The legislation to finalize the priority listing will be considered at the next LOC meeting on July 8 at 10:00 a.m.

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